

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed August 23, 2004 has been reviewed and the Examiner's comments carefully considered. The allowance of claims 1-3 and 7-18 and the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 4 and 5 is noted with appreciation. Claims 4-6 are amended. Claims 1-18 remain pending.

Claims 4-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112. Amendments to the claims have been made where appropriate. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,616,181 ("Ford"). The rejection should be withdrawn because Ford fails to disclose, teach or suggest the claimed invention. For example, Ford fails to disclose, teach or suggest a horn switch gear that includes a backward moving body configured to move backward by pressure applied by an occupant and a pair of contact members "wherein the backward moving body comprises a guide having an inclined surface for contacting and guiding at least one of the contact members to bring the contact members into contact with each other when the backward moving body is moved backward from the restored position" as called for in claim 6. An exemplary embodiment of the invention is disclosed in Fig. 13A of the present application, which discloses a guide that includes an inclined surface 123a that is designed to contact electrical contact 102 and guide it into contact with contact 82.

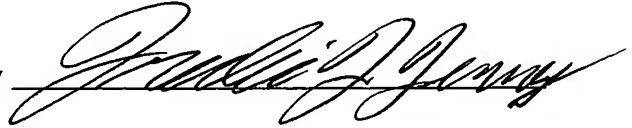
In Figure 1B, Ford discloses a backward moving contact plate 70, a stationary backing plate 46, and a block 74 formed on the contact plate 70. The block 74 comes into contact with a first electrical contact 54, thereby bringing the first electrical contact 54 into contact with the second contact member 58 when the contact plate 70 is moved backward. However, the block 74 does not anticipate the "guide" recited in claim 6 because the contact surface of the block 74 is not "inclined." Thus, Ford fails to disclose, teach or suggest the claimed invention and the rejection should be withdrawn. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

For the aforementioned reasons, claims 1-18 are now in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned if such communication would expedite the prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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By



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